

it for the ventilation of the New Houses of Parliament (see report of committee), and it has been used for this purpose in the House of Lords ever since it was opened, and is still the only means used for its ventilation. Why was this alleged infringement not noticed by the patentee? For your information, and that of any poor man henceforth taking out a patent on any of the following subjects, I beg to say that the steam jet has been introduced for ventilation of coal-mines, extinguishing fires in milleries, refuelling of silver, smelting of iron, blowing out libaridge, superheating the air-pump for making of paper; refuelling of sugar. It has been used for the ventilation of sewers, ventilation of ships; applied to the steamboats on the river to increase their speed; for the condensation of muriatic acid. In one case (see evidence before the Lords) "it condenses upwards of four tons per week, which before spread destruction to miles around" (see evidence before the Lords last session)—and all successfully. For upwards of a quarter of a century, I have laboured hard to introduce this principle, and to impress upon the public its practical importance, without any personal advantage or money interest whatever. It is painful now to be obliged to speak of one's self; but it is more painful to remain silent under the unjust charge of attempting to infringe the patent of a poor man. Still I believe I should have passed it unnoticed had not her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and other parties high in authority, under whose direction it is about to be introduced into these courts, been indirectly included in the same charge. I am anxious to set the question right, and in conclusion beg to say that I have given the steam jet, with all its appliances, to the public: they have power to use it as they please, uninfluenced by any patent right whatsoever. It has been in their possession for the last twenty years, and no one has a right to take it from them by a patent now, nor had in 1844.*

GOLDSWORTHY GURNEY.

MANAGEMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS.

I enclose a copy of some "Suggestions" for the guidance of committees and others desirous of obtaining competition designs which have been drawn up by the Bristol Society of Architects.

The society has been founded some months upon the same liberal system as the Liverpool Society, and I am happy to say, it includes a very large proportion of those persons who are interested in the arts of building and design in this city.

One of the first objects of the Society has been to arrive at fair proposals for the conduct of local competitions. After experience of the difficulty of adjusting any system by which architectural competition may be converted into an honourable course, the members do not suppose that all their suggestions can meet the views of every competitor; and it is for the purpose of eliciting remarks from yourself and your correspondents that I address you. The subject deserves careful consideration, and it calls for speedy adjustment.

Several members of our society will decline any local competition in which our suggestions are not incorporated in the "Instructions to Architects," but as many valuable hints may reach us through your pages, our "suggestions" may be made conformably to the wishes of a large majority of the competing members of our profession, and I trust and believe that they may be so modified as to become generally insisted upon by architects in every competition advertised.

SAMUEL CHARLES FRIPP.

"Propositions to be submitted in local committees advertising for competition designs, intended for their guidance in the preparation of instructions to architects.

1. Printed instructions, with a plan of the site, levels of ground, and borings, to show the nature of the foundation, to be given to each competitor on application.

2. The required accommodation to be stated as minutely as possible, extending to the divisions and number of doors, with the general areas of the principal apartments.

3. The total amount to be expended upon the building (exclusive of fixtures, architect's commission, and salary of clerk of works) to be mentioned. The successful competitor to be required to find respectable and responsible contractors to complete the different works for the sum specified, in his own estimate, and in default thereof, to be required to find a recommendation.

* We recently quoted from a contemporary, on plainly stated.

† The term "fixtures" includes chimney-pieces, grates, warming, ventilating, and cooking apparatus, gas fittings, bell and paper hanging, and ornamental painting.

4. The time allowed for preparing designs to be in no case less than one calendar month.

5. All the designs to be drawn to the same scale, and tinted in Indian ink only. A general specification to accompany them, describing materials and construction.

6. Perspective drawings not to be considered necessary, but admissible if tinted in Indian ink only.

7. All designs sent in to have the names and addresses of the authors affixed.

8. The designs to be exhibited publicly for one week previous to the decision. The parties advertising to be assisted in their selection by the opinion and judgment of one or more eminent (non-competing) architects named by the committee, and approved of by the majority of the competitors.

9. The author of the most approved design to be employed as architect of the building, with the usual per centage. Premiums to be awarded to the second and third best designs.

Form of letter to be addressed to local committees about to advertise for competition designs:—

Society of Architects' Room,
No. 1, Trinity street, Bristol.

GENTLEMEN.—I beg to submit for your perusal and consideration the enclosed propositions, having reference to architectural competitions.

They have been drawn up with much care and attention by the council of the Bristol Society of Architects, and almost unanimously agreed to by the members. Such being the case, it is not too much to infer that the majority of the members of the profession in the whole kingdom would coincide in the same views.

The glaring injustice of the decisions, and the flagrant mismanagement of the generality of competition cases for several years back, are so notorious, that the Council of the Bristol Society of Architects have resolved, whenever opportunity offers, to exert their utmost influence to effect an improvement in the system, by urging upon committees advertising the necessity of a code of instructions assimilating as nearly as may be to the enclosed form, as it is only by such means and by the strictest adherence to the instructions issued, that committees can possibly decide with that fairness and honesty which gratuitous services not only deserve, but should command. These suggestions are presented with the best intentions, and it is hoped will be received in the same spirit in which they are offered.

To be signed on behalf of the Society by the

PRESIDENT.

P.S.—It is earnestly requested that no solicitation for interest by any architect shall be entertained, or have weight with your committee."

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Now that the more inert and less enterprising, prejudiced, unwilling, or alarmed, portion of our industrial leaders and manufacturers, feel that they are fairly in for it,—that other nations will take the exhibition alone for the ability,—and that the commissioners must necessarily award the honours of precedence and superiority to exhibited ability and excellence alone, whether foreign or native,—they appear to be at least alive to the risks they run if not to the full assurance of success, and are swelling the ranks of those who from the outset looked with hopeful confidence to the issue. It appears that the demand made for space in the House of Glass by English manufacturers now exceeds that allotted, to an extent that would hardly be credited. "The most feasible mode of accounting for this," says a contemporary, in allusion to the stir throughout the country, "is to conclude that John Bull has been ashamed into bestirring himself by the enthusiasm displayed abroad. The 'organising' alertness of the French, the solemn and solid preparation of Germany, the eager and orderly activity of our colonies, have at last roused him from his torpor."

The statistics of the claims for space already made are interesting. The space required for machinery connected with manufacturing, engineering, agricultural, and other purposes, and mechanical inventions illustrative of the agents which human ingenuity brings to bear upon the products of nature, is about twice as great as that required for manufactures illustrative of the result produced by the operation of human industry upon natural produce. "Compared with raw materials and produce illustrative of the natural productions on which human industry is employed, the space required for machinery is eleven times larger, while, as compared with sculpture, models,

and the plastic arts generally, showing the taste and skill displayed in applications of human industry, it is rather more than thirteen times larger. The exact proportion which each section bears to each other, expressed in figures, taking the fine arts as the unit, would be—Fine arts, 1; raw materials and produce, 1.02; manufactures, 6.7; machinery and mechanics, 13.2." It was perhaps to be expected, however, that machinery would occupy much more space than manufactures of raw materials. As for the latter, certainly far more might be done than may at first sight seem to be possible, at least in the mineral section of such materials. The success of the agricultural and other exhibitions affords a sufficient guarantee that the vegetable and animal departments, together with all sorts of cognate implements and apparatus, will be fully and satisfactorily represented; but the section of the mineral kingdom is a novelty, and hence the executive committee are at this moment engaged in drawing attention to the fact that in some little detail almost every parish might contribute much, not only to the completeness of the Great Exhibition, but to the development of its own peculiar resources, if the opportunity be properly made known. To this end we shall be happy to assist in our own more limited sphere. We might hint, for instance, to many of our provincial readers, that numerous localities might supply marbles and stones of great variety and utility in building, though at present unknown beyond their own locality.

Clays of different kinds suitable for pottery abound in many parts of the United Kingdom, which would be likely to obtain a very extended commercial value if they were brought forward and made known on this occasion, accompanied, if possible, by some manufactured article. In Dorsetshire, for example, a very common yellow earthenware is made of the cheapest kind, which certainly ought to be shown. Any fine sands which may be considered as suitable for glass-making should be exhibited, which may easily be done in glass phials. A specimen of such sands should be contributed from every locality where they can be found. The immense value of such discoveries to the localities themselves need not be enlarged on. Amongst other mineral substances, innumerable, which might be made to minister to the prosperity of the districts whence they were sent, we may, to give some little idea of the variety and range of such materials, as well as of the objects and purposes of the exhibition, instance stones useful for personal decoration found on many parts of our coasts and rivers,—even pearls inclusive, also agates, jets, cornelians; whilst from the mountainous districts might come beautiful spars, rock crystals, and other similar stones. Useful substances, such as fullers' earth, coprolites, green sand, and sulphate of lime might be had from districts where they have probably lain hidden and unknown till now scratched out: a youth of our acquaintance, for instance, lately collected a good deal of finely crystallized sulphate of lime on the northern outskirts of the metropolis, where it was turned up, for the first time it may be, in the excavations for the Great Northern Railway. We do not mean to point this out as a fact of any importance, but just to show how useful materials may turn up. The recent purchaser of an estate in Kent has been the first, it is said, to find in it clay so suitable for pottery, that a large establishment erected there now keeps the surplus labour of agricultural villages in the vicinity employed. He is also sending tons of a beautiful sand for glass-making to the metropolis, and has discovered some excellent building stone, all now for the first time unearthed as so much hidden treasure. Such hints as these we hope will be useful.

Foreign contributions, we perceive, are still pouring in, or at least demands for space for them. The Danes, an industrious people, propose to exhibit printing machinery, porcelain (painted and blaque), shell carving, bronzes, clockwork, rifles, musical instruments, furniture, ivory turnings, stylographic plates, oilcloths, lace, wool netting, Banders gloves (with leather specimens), fur carpets, stearine candles, playing cards, white glue, and statuary.

Mr. Prieulx, of Southampton, we perceive, has followed the example of Mr. T. Hill, of same place, and others connected with the